

NATURAL HORRORS

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In a previous article, I addressed myself to the subject of fears related to sex. In this article, I propose to deal with those fears, dreads, and aversions concerned with natural phenomena: the four basic elements of the ancients, the daily and seasonal cycles, atmospheric and meteorological phenomena, and astronomical phenomena.

The amount of error that has crept into the literature enumerating such fears is not inconsiderable. In my opening article, I cited the fact that two standard crossword puzzle dictionaries, Swanfeldt and Newman, both gave TROPHOBIA as a name for the fear of lightning, when such a word did not exist, the most plausible explanation of it being a decapitation of TONITROPHOBIA, the fear of thunder. There are quite a few other errors, which I must review before turning to legitimate terms.

In Sisson's Word and Expression Locater (Parker Publishing Company, West Nyack, New York, 1966), ASTROPHOBIA is listed as the fear of lightning. It is a typographical error for ASTRAPHOBIA, because ASTROPHOBIA is the fear of stars. In the Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins by William and Mary Morris (Harper & Row, New York, 1962), ASTROPOPHOBIA is given as the fear of lightning. Again, this is a typographical error for ASTRAPOPHOBIA, because there is no such word as ASTROPOPHOBIA.

Sisson also gives ASTROPHOBIA as a name for the fear of storms. Once again, this is merely an error for ASTRAPHOBIA. The same source lists TONTITROPHOBIA as the fear of thunder, but the word is merely a misspelling of TONITROPHOBIA.

The Dunlop Book of Facts, edited by Norris and Ross McWhirter (Dreghorn Publications, London, 1964) gives us ANCRAOPHOBIA as the fear of wind. This is another nonexistent term, apparently a garbling of the proper word, ANEMOPHOBIA.

One rather dubious word has been included in the list that follows: LILAPSOPHOBIA, the fear of hurricanes. It is taken from Reversicon: A Medical Word Finder, by J. E. Schmidt (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1958). The word occurs in no other source with which it can be compared, and the source from which it is taken is of a very high quality, virtually free of errors. Yet, the fact remains that it is derived from Greek, and the Greek word for tempest, storm or hurricane is LAILAPS, not LILAPS.

With the chaff winnowed out, I now commend to the tender mercies of Word Ways readers the following list of natural terrors.

Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias

Air: aerophobia, airphobia, pneumatophobia
 Air-borne influences: aerophobia
 Air currents: aerophobia, aerophobia
 Atmospheric phenomena: meteorophobia
 Bad air: aerophobia
 Celestial space: astraphobia, astrophobia
 Clouds: nephophobia
 Cold: cheimaphobia, cheimatophobia, psychrophobia
 Comets: cometophobia
 Cyclones: anemophobia
 Dampness: hygrophobia
 Darkness: achluophobia, noctiphobia, nyctophobia, scotophobia
 Dark places: lygophobia
 Dawn: eosophobia
 Daybreak: eosophobia
 Daylight: phengophobia
 Drafts of air: aerophobia, anemophobia
 Early morning: eosophobia
 Fire: pyrophobia
 Flashing light: selaphobia
 Floods: antlophobia
 Fog: homichlophobia, nebulaphobia
 Fresh air: aerophobia
 Frost: cryophobia
 Glare of light: photaugiaphobia, photaugiophobia
 Gravity: barophobia
 Heat: thermophobia
 High temperatures: thermophobia
 Humidity: hygrophobia
 Hurricanes: anemophobia, lilapsophobia
 Ice: cryophobia
 Infinity: apeirophobia
 Light: phengophobia, photophobia, photophobia
 Lightning: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, keraunophobia, meteorophobia
 Light places: photophobia
 Meteors: meteorophobia
 Moisture: hygrophobia
 Night: noctiphobia, nyctophobia
 Northern lights: auroraphobia
 Rain: ombrophobia, ombrophobia
 Red light: erythrophobia
 Sea swells: cymophobia
 Shadows: sciaphobia, sciophobia
 Sheets of water: potamophobia
 Silence of night: noctiphobia
 Slime: blennophobia, myxophobia

Snow: chionophobia
Stars: astraphobia, astrophobia, siderophobia
Storms: meteorophobia
Strong light: photophobia
Sun: heliophobia
Sunlight: heliophobia
Thunder: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, brontophobia, ceraunophobia, keraunophobia, tonitrophobia, tonitrophobia
Thunderstorms: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, keraunophobia
Tornadoes: lilapsophobia
Void: kenophobia
Water: hydrophobia, hydrophobia, hygrophobia
Weather phenomena: meteorophobia
Wind: aerophobia, anemophobia, pneumatophobia
Winter: cheimaphobia, chionophobia
Winter storms: cheimaphobia

The exact sources of the names and meanings included in the foregoing list are available upon request. Further sections of my file of phobias await future disclosure.

BOOKS FOR SCRABBLE PLAYERS

Although one of the most popular of American pastimes, Scrabble is a game about which few books have appeared. This situation has now been rectified by the appearance of two new books on the subject, one in England, the other in the United States. Darryl Francis is the author of Know the Game: Scrabble, one of a series of game books published by EP Publishing, Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF3 2JN, England. The book sells for 40 new pence (about \$1) in England, but overseas postage may be extra. This 40-page softbound booklet contains a wealth of detail on both tactics and strategy, including an annotated game which shows the expert mind at work analyzing the various board positions. In this country, Selchow and Righter has published The Scrabble Players Handbook (\$7.50), which covers much the same ground as Darryl's book. Both belong on the bookshelf of the serious Scrabble fan.